

10. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a step of checking data in said terminal database; said checking step detecting possible modification using a hash function.

11. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein said duplicating step further includes a decision step of comparing the current temporal data to the temporal data of the memorized contents when the discriminating information of said contents acquired at said acquisition step is detected to have been memorized in the past in said storage step to verify whether or not a time period not less than a pre-set time has elapsed.

12. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, duplication is prohibited.

13. (Amended) The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, a watermark in said contents is detected and duplication processing is executed based on said watermark.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are presently active in this case. Claims 9 and 14 have been cancelled and Claims 1-8 and 10-13 have been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Notice, the February 20, 2003 Amendment was considered non-compliant because it failed the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. Applicants respectfully

submit that the present Amendment is compliant and request that examination on the merits be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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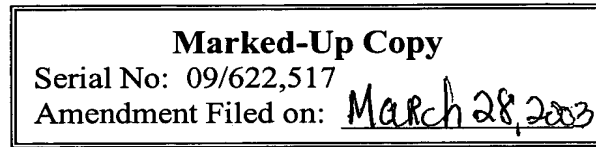
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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 9 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1-8 and 10-13 as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing [the] a database including information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and [the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated] temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past,

acquisition means for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; [and]

means for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

duplication means for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition means and the [time information] temporal data held in said storage means wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

2. (Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a storage step for storing [the] information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and [the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated] temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; [and]

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the [time information] temporal data held [in] as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

3. (Amended) A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program, said program comprising:

a storage step for storing [the] information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and [the time information for the time the contents have been duplicated] temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated; [and]

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the [time information] temporal data held [in] as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed.

4. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

- said contents are reproduced from an information storage medium.

5. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 4 wherein

said information recording medium is a compact disc memorizing the music information.

6. Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

7. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

8. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) as the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is read out at said storage step from the information recording medium and, if the ISRC is not stored in said information recording medium, data of the TOC (Table of Contents) is utilized as said discriminating information.

10. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim [9] 2, further comprising:

a step of checking data in said terminal database; said checking step detecting possible modification using a hash function.

11. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 2

wherein said duplicating step further includes a decision step of comparing the current

temporal [information] data to the temporal [information] data of the memorized contents when the discriminating information of said contents acquired at said acquisition step is detected to have been memorized in the past in said storage step to verify whether or not a time period not less than a pre-set time has elapsed.

12. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein

if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, duplication is prohibited.

13. (Amended) [(added)] The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein

if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, a watermark in said contents is detected and duplication processing is executed based on said watermark.--